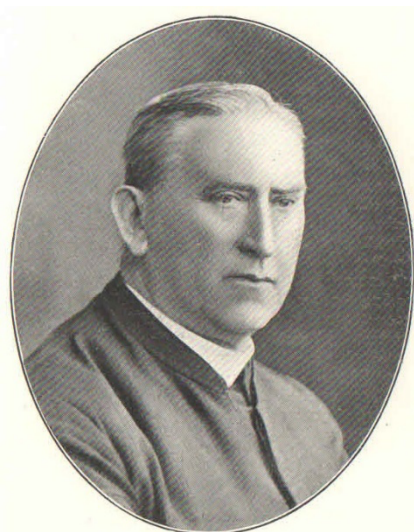


19 April

Fr MICHAEL McMAHON 25 December 1865 – 19 April 1921



Born on Christmas Day at St Patrick's Well near Limerick, Ireland, Michael McMahon joined the English rather than the Irish novitiate in 1887. He completed his two years in Graaf Reinet and Dunbrody and went on to spend six years at St Aidan's. But the record is dry about those years and we have to glance at his later life to learn something about the man.

He worked in parishes in the UK after his theology and ordination, including Bedford Leigh and Preston. He then moved to Glasgow where he became rector and there he shone. He was a tall man (6 foot 4 inches or 1.9 meters) and had a big heart to match. He built the new school of St Aloysius, the old having been condemned by government inspectors. At the same time he was a caring pastor of the Cowcaddons. ('By the 1880s, the area was becoming a slum district with the highest level of infant mortality (190 per thousand births) in the city, a figure which was three times that of the West End. - Google).

By 1919, his health began to fail and he moved to Whinney House, near Newcastle, which was a retreat house and where he gave many retreats, triduums and missions. But he was diagnosed with Bright's disease or nephritis, an inflammatory condition of the kidneys and died 'frighteningly suddenly' in the middle of a conversation.

He was noted for his 'generous, large-hearted sympathy for others', 'huge in heart, in soul, in brain and in body.' 'He had the gift of all great superiors; trust in those under him, and the delegation of his authority so as to get the most out of each.'